

**DAKOTA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT #61-8  
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
JANUARY 12, 2026  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES  
DAKOTA VALLEY BOARD ROOM**

**REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 PM**

**\* All motions carried unanimously approved unless otherwise indicated.**

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kistner at 6:00 pm on January 12, 2026. Roll Call indicated the following members present: Hanson, Kistner, Nilges, Norby, and Thompson. Absent: None. Administrators, Superintendent Schmidt and Business Manager Sponder were in attendance.

Chairperson Kistner welcomed the visitors.

Motion by Nilges, seconded by Norby to approve the amended agenda.

No new conflict-of-interest disclosures were presented.

Motion by Nilges seconded by Hanson to approve the consent agenda.

Mr. Schmidt and Ryan Streff from Summit Group discussed the proposed placement of a cell phone tower by Vertical Bridge/Verizon.

Motion by Norby, seconded by Thompson to approve the following resignations and new hires:

Resignations

1. Erik Sommervold, HS Principal, effective June 30, 2026.

New Hires

1. Dylan Lindstrom, HS Asst Track Coach, Step 1, \$3,189
2. Dylan Lindstrom, MS Asst Boys Basketball Coach, Step 1, \$1,933
3. Adam Shanks, MS Asst Boys Basketball Coach, Step 6, \$2,115

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Hanson to approve the bid advertisement for ES and UE/MS roof replacement.

Mr. Schmidt discussed a few 2026-2027 school calendar options.

Motion by Hanson, seconded by Nilges to approve trading in our Chevy maintenance truck for a new maintenance truck with a budget of up to \$5,000 net cost.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Nilges to approve switching our transportation services to Foreman Bus beginning the 2026-27 school year and include the use of a transit van for activities.

Motion by Norby, seconded by Nilges to approve the combined election agreement with Union County.

Motion by Norby, seconded by Hanson to approve the PK requirements for Junior Kindergarten.

Motion by Norby, seconded by Hanson to approve Steve Kistner and Matt Thompson as the board negotiation representatives.

Mr. Schmidt discussed the presentation to the staff regarding the financial position of the school district and the need for staff reductions.

Student ambassador report was received.

Written administrator reports were received.

Motion by Norby, seconded by Nilges to go into Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2.1 for personnel. The board went into executive session at 7:49 pm. Superintendent Schmidt and Business Manager Sponder were in attendance. The board declared out of executive session at 8:06 pm.

No motion was carried out after the executive session.

Motion by Norby, seconded by Nilges to go into Executive Session per SDCL 1-25-2.5 for contracts. The board went into executive session at 8:06 pm. Superintendent Schmidt and Business Manager Sponder were in attendance. The board declared out of executive session at 8:14 pm.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Hanson to reject the lease proposal from Vertical Bridge for placement of a cell phone tower on school district property. Ayes: Kistner, Hanson, Norby, Thompson. Nays: Nilges

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Norby to adjourn at 8:15 pm.

Jill Sponder  
Business Manager

Steve Kistner  
Chairperson

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